

## **Amendments to the Claims:**

*This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:*

1. (Currently Amended) A support system for a pair of spectacles comprising:

an item of headwear to be supported directly on a wearer's head including a portion which, when in use, projects beyond [[the]] a circumference of the head of [[a]] the wearer above the eyes; and

one or more support ~~rods or strings~~ members connected to the projecting portion and having means at the or each free end for detachable connection to ~~the~~ temple arms of a pair of spectacles;

wherein the support members are configured to reduce a force directly exerted on the wearer by the spectacles.

2. (Currently Amended) A support system as claimed in claim [[1]] 19, wherein the support ~~rods or strings~~ members are flexible.

3. (Currently Amended) A support system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the support ~~rods or strings~~ members are adjustable for length and/or position on the projecting portion.

4. (Currently Amended) A support system as claimed in claim 3, wherein the support members ~~rods~~ are adjustable by bending and/or stretching.

5. (Currently Amended) A support system as claimed in claim 3, wherein the support ~~rods or strings~~ members are adjusted at the connection point to the projecting portion.

6. (Currently Amended) A support system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the projecting portion includes a number of holes greater than the number of support members

through which the ~~rods or strings~~ support members can pass so as to provide for different positions for the ~~rods or strings~~ support members.

7. (Currently Amended) A support system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~rods or strings~~ support members are permanently attached to the projecting portion or are detachable therefrom.

8. (Currently Amended) A support system as claimed in claim 1, wherein while wearing the headwear the ends of the ~~rods or strings~~ support members can be folded against the projecting portion when not in use.

9. (Currently Amended) A support system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the support ~~rods or strings~~ members are constituted by a single piece attached to the projecting portion and having free ends for connection to the temple arms of the pair of spectacles.

10. (Currently Amended) A support system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the support ~~rods or strings~~ members are constituted by two or more separate elements.

11. (Currently Amended) A support system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the free end of the support ~~rods or strings~~ members are formed as a hook for connection to the temple arms of the pair of spectacles.

12. (Currently Amended) A support system as claimed in claim 11, wherein at least the end portion of the support ~~rods or strings~~ members are flexible so as to be formable into the hook.

13. (Currently Amended) A support system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the free ends of the support ~~rods or strings~~ members comprise magnets to connect to the temple arms of the pair of spectacles.

14. (Previously Presented) A support system as claimed in claim 13, further comprising a magnetically attractive element for location on the temple arms of the pair of spectacles.

15. (Currently Amended) A support system as claimed in claim 13, wherein magnetically attractive elements are provided in the projecting portion such that while wearing the headwear the rods or strings- support members can be held out of the way when not in use.

16. (Currently Amended) A support system as claimed in claim 1, wherein catch elements ~~such as clips~~ are provided in the projecting portion such that while wearing the headwear the rods or strings- support members can be held out of the way when not in use.

17. (Previously Presented) A support system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the item of headwear comprises a brim or peak.

18. (Original) A support system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the item of headwear comprises a cap or visor.

19. (New) A support system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the support members are formed as rods.

20. (New) A support system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the support members are formed as strings.